Raising of Manipur Regiment

2167. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of raising of 'Manipur Regiment' in Indian Army Stands; and

(b) how long it will take to materialise the demand into reality?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to raise a separate Manipur Regiment in the Indian Army. The policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

Precautions to contain air crashes

2168. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Versova-based mother of late Flt-Lt Abhijit Gadgil, who died in MIG-21 air-crash in September, 2001, has set "The Abhijit Air Safety Foundation", seeking to unite parents of over 100 dead fighter pilots of MiG-21 crashes, for seeking rational explanation on continuing MiG crashes; and

(b) if so, whether adequate safety precautions exist to contain this continuing trend of air crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always afoot in Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety.

Pensionary benefits to families of deceased IL-38 Naval Officers

2169. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the families of twelve naval officers and men killed in mid-air collision accident of two naval planes in Goa have